

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-6 and 8-12, 15 and 18-19 (Canceled)

5. 1. (Canceled) A polypeptide comprising the sequence given by Seq. ID. No.
2. (Canceled) A cDNA molecule comprising the sequence given by Seq. ID. No. 6.
7. 3. (Canceled) A polypeptide comprising the sequence given by Seq. ID. No.
4. (Canceled) A method for reducing the activity of HIP-apoptosis modulating protein in a patient with Huntington's disease comprising the step of administering the patient a therapeutic composition which reduces the activity of the HIP-apoptosis modulating protein.
5. (Canceled) A method according to claim 4, wherein the composition comprises a material which binds to HIP-apoptosis modulating protein.
6. (Canceled) The method according to claim 4, wherein the composition comprises an expression vector encoding huntingtin having a normal number of repeats.
7. (Currently amended) An expression vector for expression of a gene in a mammalian host comprising a ~~region encoding~~ an isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of a sequence of nucleotides as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3, which encode an HD-interacting polypeptide, wherein the HD-interacting polypeptide is an HIP-apoptosis modulating protein and wherein said protein polypeptide consists of a sequence of amino acids selected from the group consisting of that has a sequence which includes the amino acid sequences given by SEQ ID Nos-SEQ ID NOS. 2, 4, 5, or and 7.

8. (Canceled) A method for inducing apoptotic death in cells comprising the step of introducing into the cells an expression vector encoding at least the death effector domain of a HIP-apoptosis modulating protein whereby the death effector domain is expressed by the cells.

9. (Canceled) The method according to claim 8, wherein the expression vector encodes the amino acid sequence given by Seq. ID. No. 2.

10. (Canceled) The method according to claim 8, wherein the expression vector encodes the amino acid sequence given by Seq. ID. No. 4.

11. (Canceled) A method for screening a composition for the ability to inhibit apoptosis induced by an HIP-apoptosis modulating protein, comprising simultaneously exposing a population of cells to the composition and an HIP-apoptosis modulating protein and measuring the extent of cell death.

12. (Canceled) The expression vector of claim 7 where the HIP-apoptosis modulating protein has a sequence which includes SEQ ID NO:2.

13. (Currently amended) The expression vector of claim 7 where the HIP-apoptosis modulating protein has a sequence as set forth in ~~which includes SEQ ID No. 4~~ SEQ ID NO:4.

14. (Currently amended) The expression vector of claim 7 where the HIP-apoptosis modulating protein has a sequence ~~which includes~~ as set forth in ~~SEQ ID No. 5~~ SEQ ID NO.: 5.

15. (Canceled) The expression vector of claim 7 where the HIP-apoptosis modulating protein has a sequence which includes SEQ ID NO:7.

16. (Previously presented) A host cell comprising the expression vector of claim 7.

17. (Previously presented) The host cell of claim 16 that is a mammalian cell.
18. (Canceled) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.
19. (Canceled) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.
20. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule ~~comprising~~ consisting of the nucleotide sequence as set forth ~~n~~ in SEQ ID NO:3.
21. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 20 encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.
22. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 20 encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.
23. (New) A host cell transfected or transformed with an expression vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 21.
24. (New) A host cell transfected or transformed with an expression vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claims 22.
25. (New) An expression vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 20.